

Researcher

West Virginia Writers' Project

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO. W. VA. POCAHONTAS CO.

Pocahontas County has several chain and company stores, the West Virginia Pulp And Paper Company at Cass, have a large general store that was established about 1900, Durbin Mercantile at Durbin and Bartow Supply at Bartow all company stores. At Marlinton you find an A. & P store and one owned by C. J Casdorf of Ronceverte who has a chain of stores besides the one in Marlinton they have one at Hillsboro competing with home owned stores owned by R. D Moore proprietor of Hillsboro Cut Price Store, formerly owned by M. L Isbell. And another general store owned by W. T Walker, these stores all handle country produce, that represents the surplus of what the farmers produce in Pocahontas County.

Hillsboro has one hotel operated by R. W Rogers which has a splendid trade as many motorists prefer a small town to the larger one on account of noise, J. W Siple and W. C McClune operated hotels in Hillsboro until a few years back when Siples was destroyed by fire and McClunes closed due to advanced age and sickness in the family.

At Durbin you find Hotel Wilmoth, at Marlinton, Hotel Marlin, Sewel Statons Hotel, Clarks Home Hotel, Grimes Hotel that was formerly known as Stage Hotel. Pocahontas County has many tourist homes at Hillsboro you find one operated by Mrs. H. F Beard, At Millpoint Cliffside Tourists, at the Wallaces and operated by Cora Cloonan, at Marlinton we find two one by Mrs. Jack Richardson

other operated by Mrs. S.J. Rexrode, and many more throughout the county take care of the traveling trade during the summer months. In the early days

when we had the horse drawn vehicles, and all stock were driven to market many farmers that had large houses accommodated the traveling public and one of the stopping places worthy of notice was at the farm home of the late Joseph Smith above Millpoint, who took care of many people and their horses and was known as the home of Love, Hospitality and prayer by the traveling public. This was in the days of the livery stable and hack, at Hillsboro, T.F. Smith had a hack route from Hillsboro to Seebert. At Marlinton was a livery stable with

saddle horses and buggy horses which were hired out for trips all over the

county the first was operated by the Englishman by the name of Wilson his stable man was Tom Courtney, and from information available he was followed by Anthony Kincaid about 1900 his drivers were his sons Jack and Rex following Kincaid, came the Marlinton Feed and Livery Co. In which were the following men: Newyers, Dillion, and our own native son the late W.A. McLaughlin of Marlinton.

W. S. Smith Sr. ran a livery stable until the days of the automobile which was about 1910. The late John D. Gay and Walter Mann operated a feed store and livery barn for a time. ~~Not~~ Not long after the automobile was introduced in the county the livery stable along with the horses passed out of the picture, the car has been the means of transportation for about 30 years but the aeroplane and its increasing popularity and about 1935 ground was obtained from D.W. Williams on the

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hill back of the fair grounds on which to construct an air port, most of the work being done with relief workers, and today we find an aeroplane

owned by Carl Sheets of Marlinton making almost daily runs about over the county mostly for pleasure, this plane no doubt is the first aeroplane to be bought in the county. Pocahontas County has many level fields from which aeroplanes can start and land therefore it seems that the use of aeroplanes in Pocahontas County is in its infancy, and it is thought by many that they

will replace the automobile to a certain extent. Besides Carl Sheets, Walter Mason is learning to fly, and Z. S. Smith III is in government service, his uncle Thomas Smith lost his life in government training about 1939, giving his life for the advancement of the Aeroplane in private life as well as defense.

Government mail planes pass over Pocahontas County daily and it is hoped that in the near future we will have Air Mail service out of the county. ~~XX~~

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Pocahontas County is served by the Pocahontas Telephone Company under the management of James Bear, their lines covering almost the entire area of the county, with 24 hour service through the Marlinton switch board throughout the county and ~~XXXX~~ out of the county. Keeping this line up requires the services of many laborers, and it is by these lines that the lines of communication are kept going, this has meant a lot to the growth

of the county, as both time and money have been saved by many of the new

tion of the county, and at one time 80% or more of the homes of the County had a telephone but when the depression came along about 1931 many of them were taken out or cut off and at the present time most of the phones are found in the towns as many rural communities are without telephone service and altogether or only one or two where there use to be from 30 to 40, but due to the small income of the farmers they were forced to discontinue the service that they so greatly needed, especially in cases of emergencies.

The two power lines that serve Pocahontas County The West Penn serves the upper half of the county while The Virginia Public Service serves the lower portion of the county, this has meant much to the county not only for lights but the many machines that it runs taking the drudgery out of much of the work regularly performed by members of the households, this has caused many electrical appliances to be sold most of which are sold by C.J. Richardson and are especially washing machines. Radios are found in most of the homes and these are serviced by Ralph Dilley and Robert Patterson of Marlinton, with a few radio shops

So be it said that electricity has meant much to the growth of the county besides the comfort and enjoyment that it brings.

Information-A.W. McNeill & Addie B. Graham Buckeye, W.Va.

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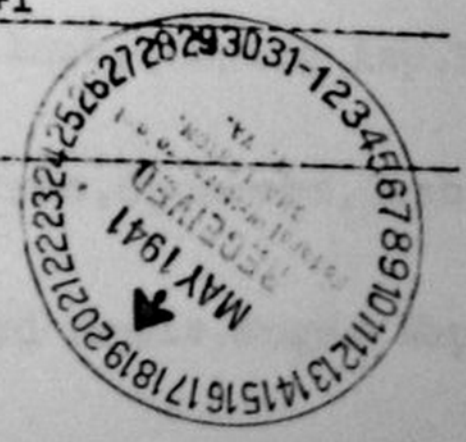
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Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Pocahontas County has most of our native trees and each year some of these are shipped to different parts of the state by many of the farmers living in the region where these small trees are growing and each year these farmers add to their income by digging and shipping small trees and other shrubbery namely Spruce, Hemlock, White Pine, White & Black Walnut, Quaping Asp, Beech Birch, Ironwood, Elm, Mountain Magnolia, Yellow Poplar, Sassafras, Sycamore, Crab Apple, Mountain Ash, Wild Cherry, Yellow Locust, Sumac, Striped Maple, Sugar Maple Dogwood, Mountain Holley, Red Bud, Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel these are shipped over the entire state for resetting in many of our larger towns and cities of W. Va. The income derived from these trees amounts to several thousand dollars each year.

Each year thousands of dollars of Laurel is dug in Pocahontas County part of this is bought by Frank Lebarr of Strausburg, Pa. who has a nursery at White Sulphur Springs, it is dug by local labor and trucked to the nursery and set out and from the nursery it is dug and reshipped to many parts of the U S but especially to New York City and other large cities of the east where it is bought by the rich people to be planted in their lawns and with other plants and trees that make up their shrubbery. Much Laurel is bought by tourists passing through therefore the income derived from the sale of Rhododendron in Pocahontas County is great. As it is our state flower Pocahontas County is proud

Pocahontas County ranks high in the production of evergreens and each year many of these are cut at Christmas time and trucked to the towns and cities of W. Va. and sold as Christmas trees of these the Spruce is the most desirable, they are found on high elevation especially on Cheat Mt. Spruce Knob, Black Mt. and many other sections of high altitude mostly found on the Northwestern part of the county, many of our little Spruce find their way to Charleston about Christmas time.

Pocahontas is noted for its wildflowers coming early in the spring and staying until late in the fall many of these are dug each year and sold wildflower lovers over the state. Many of the rich woodlands of Pocahontas Ginseng and Golden Seal these two plants in years gone by were the means of for many of our mountain people as thousands of dollars worth of these roots were dug each year in the wilds besides the tame and cultivated patches that were found scattered over the county the ginseng is mostly sent to ^{SHINA} ~~China~~ where it is said it is made into medicine. Other plants and roots are gathered each year and shipped to herb plants that use them in making medicine, H. C. Cole no located at Allegheny and formerly of Watoga W. Va. was an herb doctor that u
ny of our plants of Pocahontas County medicine.

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very much like an onion, each spring these are dug and sold to the people of our towns also to people from sections that do not produce them, they are considered a delicacy by many people and each spring many so called Ramp reunions are held throughout the county and state.

Much fruit is produced in Pocahontas County C. J Richardson owns what is known as the fruit farm which is located near the Greenbrier River above Marlinton, this orchard consists of from 40 to 50 acres of trees and each year this fruit is picked and sold locally in and around Marlinton another orchard of size is found on the McClintic Farm on Swago Creek near Buckeye the acreage in trees is from 35 to 40 acres the fruit is sold locally.

Pocahontas County produces Cranberries on Cranberry River this sect located in the western part of Pocahontas was once known as the Wilderness or Wilds of Pocahontas this glade is cut up into smaller ones namely the big Gl Flag Glade, Long Glade, Round Glade and Little Glade with a total acreage of 100 acres but truly this just one big glade containing from 250 to 300 acres of wet soil overgrown in some places with a thicket of shrubbery and others carpeted with moss. There is perhaps no area of equal extent in W. Va. which is of greater importance for its influence on water flow nor one more interesting to a student and collector on account of its varied forms of plant and animal life than this Glady region laying at an elevation of 3,400 above sea level a few miles head of Cranberry River, each fall these Cranberries are gathered by men

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from different sections of Pocahontas County as well as by some from outside of it, some are sold and when put away in the moss from the glades will keep a considerable length of time this section was once in one of our dense and undisturbed forests but was cut over by Wam Lumber Co. and since been bought by the state and put into a national forest and game reserve as this section has much game as well as trout fishing streams save for the timber the resources of this section are undeveloped and with the Marlinton, Millport to Richwood road that has been and is being built by the federal government by federal prisoners it is hoped this section of Pocahontas will be opened up. in the near future and its resources developed.

Pocahontas County has many fish streams the larger streams having both large and small mouth bass and Pike while the smaller streams have both Brook and Rainbow Trout along with the Brown Trout in some streams to keep these streams stocked a Fish Hatchery was built between Edray and Onoto just below the old McLaughlin Spring and here thousands of trout and other fish are hatched and fed to a certain size then they are distributed throughout this section of the state in our local streams, because of its fine fishing streams and good fishing many of the outdoor and sporting class visit Pocahontas each year.

Our rugged mountains, covered with a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowering plants, combined with swift, pure mountain streams, scores of lakes

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Volume springs and numerous fairyland caverns affords us scenic grandeur
unsurpassed and should be recognized as another of our most important nat-
ural resources.

If these resources are wisely developed and wisely utilized which
incidentally is true conservation, the people of Pocahontas County will have
a bright and prosperous future.

Information. Calvin W Price Marlinton. W. Va.

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul Price.

A. W McNeill Buckeye. W. Va.

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